



FACT SHEET

U.S. Air Force Fact Sheet 171st Air Refueling Squadron

Operating from Selfridge Air National Guard Base and flying the KC-135T Stratotanker, the 171st Air Refueling Squadron provides global reach for the deployment of U.S. air power. The squadron has deployed Airmen and aircraft to locations around the globe on an ongoing basis since it began operating the KC-135 in April 2008.



A component of the 127th Air Refueling Group and 127th Wing, the squadron is a part of the Michigan Air National Guard, supporting the mission of the Air Mobility Command. To accomplish its mission, the squadron works closely with the 191st Maintenance Squadron, the 191st Aircraft Maintenance Squadron and the 191st Maintenance Operations and Operations Support flights.

Deployments

Recent major deployments by the 171st ARS and supporting units include:

- 2010-present: Deployments in support of Pacific Air Command
- 2009-present: Deployments in support of Air Mobility Command's Tanker Airlift Control Center (TACC), including aeromedical evacuation duty.
- 2011-2014: A series of ongoing, rolling mobilizations in support of Central Command
- 2011: Operation Odyssey Dawn (Libya)

History

Prior to taking on the KC-135 mission, the 171st ARS was known as the 127th Airlift Squadron and flew C-130 Hercules tactical cargo aircraft for about 15 years. The unit's final major deployment with the C-130 came when most of the squadron spent the last six months of 2006 in Afghanistan.

The 171st ARS traces its history back to World War II. In 1943, the 374th Fighter Squadron was created to fly the P-47 Thunderbolt in the European Command. In 1946, after the conclusion of the war, the unit was redesignated as the 171st and assigned to the Michigan Air National Guard. In the 1970s, operating as a Fighter Interceptor squadron, the unit flew the F-106 Delta Dart and picked up a distinctive nickname - the Michigan Six-Pack. The 171st flew fighter aircraft from the time of the unit's inception through 1994, when it made the transition to the C-130. The Six-Pack nickname - and the unit's black and yellow checkerboard tail markings - continue to be used by the Michigan ANG at Selfridge and can be seen in a distinctive design on the KC-135s stationed at the base.

The unit's aircraft, the KC-135 "T" model, is distinct in that it is capable of carrying two different types of fuel, the JP-8 used by the KC-135 and either additional JP-8 to transfer to a receiving aircraft or a different type of fuel, such as a synthetic blend, for transfer.

Lineage

- Constituted 374th Fighter Squadron on 28 January 1942
Activated on 10 February 1943
Inactivated on 24 October 1945
- Redesignated 171st Fighter Squadron, and allotted to the Michigan Air National Guard, 24 May 1946

Federally recognized, 171st Fighter Squadron (Single Engine), 25 April 1948
 Redesignated 171st Fighter Squadron (Jet), 23 February 1950
 Activated to Federal Service, 23 February 1951
 Redesignated 171st Training Squadron, 5 March 1951
 Returned to Michigan State Control, 11 September 1952
 Redesignated 171st Fighter-Bomber Squadron, 1 November 1952
 Redesignated 171st Fighter Interceptor Squadron, November 1953
 Redesignated 171st Tactical Reconnaissance Squadron, 1958
 Redesignated 171st Fighter Interceptor Squadron, 22 July 1972
 Redesignated 171st Tactical Fighter Squadron, 1 September 1978
 Redesignated 171st Fighter Squadron, 15 March 1992
 Redesignated 171st Airlift Squadron, 15 July 1994
 Redesignated 171st Air Refueling Squadron, 1 April 2008.

Assignments

- 361st Fighter Group, 10 February 1943 – 24 October 1945
- 127th Fighter Group, 25 April 1948-30 September 1962
- 191st Tactical Reconnaissance Group, 1 October 1962-31 December 1972
- 191st Fighter-Interceptor Group, 1 January 1973-31 May 1978
- 191st Tactical Fighter Group, 1 June 1978-15 March 1992
- 191st Fighter Group, 16 March 1992-14 July 1994
- 191st Airlift Group, 15 July 1994-31 March 1996
- 127th Airlift Group, 127th Wing, 1 April 1996 - 1 May 1999
- 191st Airlift Group, 127th Wing, 1 May 1999-30 September 2007
- 127th Air Refueling Group, 127th Wing, 30 September 2007-Present
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Stations

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|---|---|
| • Richmond Army Air Base, Virginia, 10 February 1943 | • RAF Little Walden (AAF-165), England, ca. 28 September 1944 |
| • Camp Springs Army Airfield, Maryland, 26 May 1943 | • Operated from St-Dizier Airfield (A-64), France, 23 December 1944 – 1 February 1945 |
| • Millville Army Airfield, New Jersey, 15 August 1943 | • Chievres Airdrome (A-84), Belgium, 1 February 1945 |
| • Camp Springs Army Airfield, Maryland, 18 September 1943 | • RAF Little Walden (AAF-165), England, 7 April – ca. 11 October 1945 |
| • Richmond Army Air Base, Virginia, 30 September – 11 November 1943 | • Camp Kilmer, New Jersey, 23–24 October 1945 |
| • RAF Bottisham (AAF-374), England, 30 November 1943 | • Wayne County Airport, Michigan, 25 April 1948 |
| | • Luke Air Force Base, Arizona, 23 February 1951 |
| | • Detroit-Wayne Major Airport, Michigan, 11 September 1952 |
| | • Selfridge Air National Guard Base, Michigan, July 1971–Present |

Aircraft

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| • P-47 Thunderbolt, 1943–1944 | • RF-101A/C Voodoo, 1971–1972 |
| • P-51 Mustang, 1944–1950 | • F-106A/B Delta Dart (1972–1978) |
| • F-84 Thunderjet, 1950–1952 | • F-4C Phantom II (1978–1988) |
| • F-51H Mustang, 1952–1953 | • F-4D Phantom II (1988–1991) |
| • F-86E Sabre, 1953–1955 | • F-16A/B Block 15 Fighting Falcon (1991–1995) |
| • F-89C Scorpion, 1955–1958 | • C-130 Hercules(1995–2007) |
| • RF-84F Thunderflash, 1958–1971 | • KC-135T Stratotanker (2007–Present) |

